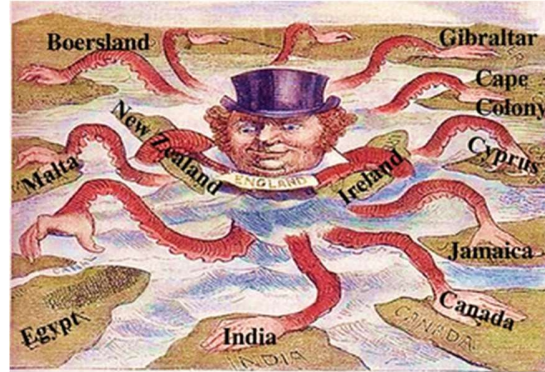


Postcolonial Literature: from Empire to Emancipation and Beyond

Course code: CANG 9138 et CANG 9238

Course description

This seminar will examine some key moments, themes and techniques in colonial and postcolonial literature in the English language through a variety of postcolonial literary extracts and canonic English literary works from a selection of novels, plays, poetry and film adaptations. Our main aim will be to look at key colonial and postcolonial legacies, narratives, themes and issues in Commonwealth countries and at their relationships to the former imperial powers through a critical lens, while expanding our definitions



and understanding of literature in English. All five CAE skills (aural comprehension, oral expression, oral interaction, written expression and written comprehension), as well as development of translation skills, will be practised throughout this course.

Course prerequisites

An interest in 20th century 'world' literature and/ or English literature and the willingness to participate and share your thoughts and ideas. A good command (**C1 level minimum**) of both written and spoken English is required.

Assessment

The evaluation will consist of 50% for the continuous assessment (participation in class, attendance, homework) and 50% for the final exam. Course structure of 10 2h seminars over 10 weeks + one 2h final exam.

Course Outline and selected works

Unit 1. Colonial literature and its critical background: Rudyard Kipling, Joseph Conrad and foundational postcolonial critics (Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, Gayatri Spivak etc.)

Unit 2. Gender and tradition in African diaspora literature: *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe (Nigeria), *Nervous Conditions* by Tsitsi Dangarembga (Zimbabwe), *Waiting for the Barbarians* by JM Coetzee (S. Africa)

Unit 3. Time and reality in India and Pakistan: *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie (India), *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy (India), *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid (Pakistan/ USA)

Unit 4. Rewriting the Caribbean: *Omeros* by Derek Walcott (St. Lucia), *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys (Dominica/ UK), *Une Tempête* by Aimé Césaire (Martinique/ France).